

1 SCOPING MEETING FOR THE PROPOSED CANADIAN
2 NATIONAL RAILWAY COMPANY ACQUISITION OF THE
3 ELGIN, JOLIET AND EASTERN RAILWAY COMPANY
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8 STATEMENT OF:
9 LAURI MECKERT
10 AUGUST 27, 2008
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13 BARRINGTON HIGH SCHOOL
14 616 WEST MAIN STREET
15 BARRINGTON, ILLINOIS
16
17

18 CHIMNIAK REPORTING & VIDEO
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22 REPORTED BY: Donna M. Kazaitis, 084-003145
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1 MS. MECKERT: Lauri, L-A-U-R-I, Meckert,
2 M-E-C-K-E-R-T, from Barrington, Illinois.
3 My primary concern if this
4 transaction goes through is it's putting my

5 children at risk.

6 I'm a long-time Barrington
7 resident. I have four young children, one that
8 goes to, not very young, one that goes to and from
9 the high school every single day.

10 I want to make the point that the
11 majority, if not all, of the students that walk to
12 Barrington High School, and there are hundreds if
13 not a thousand of them, have to cross that track
14 twice a day.

15 And as it is when there's just a
16 few trains, it puts their safety at risk. Some of
17 those kids are impulsive, some of them are trying
18 to get home quickly, and I'm afraid with more
19 trains the safety issue is increased in terms of
20 their getting from one side of the track to the
21 other.

22 One of their favorite hangouts
23 happens to be the original tracks which lies
24 adjacent to the track where you see kids

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1 rollerblading every single day, you see kids on
2 their bikes and their skateboards, and they are in
3 very close proximity to those tracks, and I think
4 that it's a dangerous situation for them. It's
5 dangerous now, and it will be far more dangerous
6 with more trains coming through town.

7 Also, I believe that the report
8 from the EIS falls quite short in terms of the
9 grade crossing. It recognizes only one
10 intersection or one grade crossing in Barrington,

11 and there are in fact three.

12 There's an intersection, not an
13 intersection, but a grade crossing that needs to
14 be looked at on 14 and Lake-Cook as well.

15 These are heavily traveled roads
16 with backups already when the few freight trains
17 that go through town go through, come through.

18 I'm concerned as well about
19 emergency access. This train line divides our
20 community in half and does not provide us access
21 to the nearest hospital, which is Good Shepherd.

22 And for our children and the
23 schools, and I am a schoolteacher in Barrington,
24 it's going to put many of those children who are

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1 already at risk in terms of their diabetes and
2 asthma and such at greater risk because this train
3 will dissect the community and make it virtually
4 impossible for them to receive emergency care as
5 soon as they ought to, you know, at the hospital.

6 So I think that it can cause fatal
7 situations as well. In the event that somebody
8 needs to get from one side to the other, they
9 can't do so because they're waiting for a train
10 that takes up to seven minutes to cross. And I
11 want to thank you.

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